

Part II

Israel and torture: A Sunday Times report

EDITOR'S NOTE: On June 19, 1977 THE SUNDAY TIMES ran a detailed inquiry by the Insight team into the use of torture by Israel on Arab detainees in the occupied territories.

"Insight has questioned 44 Arabs who claim to have been ill-treated or tortured. Most of them still live in the occupied areas and some are willing to be named. We have tape recorded 110,000 words of testimony, and obtained corroboration wherever possible. Because the findings contradict official denials (by Israel) the evidence is set out in considerable detail..." THE SUNDAY TIMES says on its front page.

It continues "The practices we have examined have occurred throughout the ten years of Israeli occupation; our evidence spans this period, the last base being in December 1967. There is no reason to believe it has ceased: the allegations are continuing."

We continue the case of Omar Abdul Karim, the 35-year-old carpenter from Beit Sahur, who was subjected to extensive torture at a detention and interrogation centre in Jerusalem.

Other interviews helped to corroborate Abdul Karim's story. On Nov. 14, his lawyer Felicia Langer and her clerk Abdul Asali visited Abdul Karim in Hebron prison. Langer subsequently wrote an account of the visit.

"He was brought to me supported by other prisoners because he was unable to walk by himself... He was looking very bad, his face was completely yellow... All the time he was pointing to his ribs, claiming he was unable to breathe out. One of his fellow prisoners told us that his ribs had been broken during interrogation... Omar indicated to us that he had been tortured by electricity and while speaking of it he started trembling terribly... It was as if his body was convulsed... He did not know his age, place of birth, address, or whether he had children. Just once during our visit, he let slip that his wife had been beaten in front of him, but then he stopped talking about it. It seemed to us that he was in another world."

In another interview six weeks before Abdul Karim's release, Langer's clerk Al Asali confirmed her account, adding that they had seen Abdul Karim suddenly start laughing and kiss a prison guard. "He said that the guard was the only one who didn't torture him..." (Al Asali did not mention burns on Abdul Karim, but he did claim to have seen "blue marks and red marks like blood near his ear.")

It was also in mid-January, again six weeks before his release, that we interviewed the mayor of Abdul Karim's village, Hanna Al Atrash. He told us then how the Israelis had spent several days during the 33 years round Abdul Karim's house. His account of this episode agrees in general with that given to us later by Abdul Karim -- who could in no way have colluded with him.

The mayor also told us that in late November, having heard from Felicia Langer of Abdul Karim's state, he went to see the Israeli military governor of the Bethlehem district: "He said he didn't believe the story, but he would look into it." He later told the mayor that Abdul Karim had been



moved to a prison hospital. The mayor also contacted the International Red Cross in Jerusalem: "I asked them to look into the allegations. Later the Red Cross delegate Bernard Munger confirmed to me that they were true. He confirmed Felicia Langer's letter completely."

As a matter of policy, the Red Cross never comments publicly on cases. The chief Red Cross delegate in Jerusalem, Alfredo Witschi, said he could not confirm or deny the mayor's statement. "We make our reports to the authorities and request action," he said. Similarly in Amman, Jean Couvroulier would confirm only that he had met Abdul Karim on the Allenby bridge.

We have established, however, that the Jerusalem Red Cross delegates Munger first got access to Abdul Karim at the end of November, about 55 days after his arrest. It was about then -- and so possibly as a result of Munger's intervention -- that Abdul Karim was moved to Ramleh prison hospital. He was X-rayed, but returned, after a week to Hebron. In the light of his later condition -- which Munger described to doctors in Amman as

"lamentable" and to which the medical records at Salt bear witness -- this seems a strange decision. It is not surprising that Abdul Karim has the fondest memories of Munger, whose continued efforts helped finally bring his release. "He saved my life," Abdul Karim says.

Member of the fedayeen

BUT IF THERE IS independent corroboration for points of Abdul Karim's story, there are also weaknesses which make it fall short of final proof.

In the first place, he was once a member of the fedayeen. Seven years ago, he served a 20-month sentence for possessing a revolver. His lawyer, Felicia Langer, though Jewish and a refugee from the Final Solution, is an active Communist, regularly denounced by the Israeli government for political contacts with enemies of the state.

Secondly, the medical evidence is not conclusive. It rests ultimately upon the judgments and testimony of the director of the Salt hospital, Dr. Ahmad Hamzeh. But Dr. Hamzeh is scarcely neutral. In 1976 the Israelis deported him from the West Bank. His clinical judgments, too, are open to challenge. In finding Abdul Karim's injuries "consistent with" his story of torture, Dr. Hamzeh placed some emphasis on his fractured ribs. Yet in February 1976, we have discovered, Abdul Karim visited the Mount of David orthopaedic hospital in Bethlehem, complaining of pains in his back and chest. Hospital records show that an X-ray taken then also showed "evidence of multiple fractures in ribs." Medical experts in London say that even if Abdul Karim's ribs had later been refractured, Dr. Hamzeh's X-rays might not have allowed him to distinguish between the two sets of breaks.

It might be said that, in a country of avowed political freedom, Felicia Langer's politics should not debar her testimony. It could also be said that old fractures were surely

Absurdity's loophole Human rights; human lefts

By Bassam Bishuti

The farce that is going on in Belgrade at the moment needs some comment because people are beginning to believe that something of substance is being decided there. I am, of course, referring to the 35-nation Conference on European Security and Cooperation which is designed as a follow-up to the similar Helsinki meeting of 1975.

In Helsinki, two years ago, the nations of the Western and Eastern blocs of the world agreed to adhere to a number of principles which they grouped into three main "baskets". My interest, here, is in the third such "basket" -- the principles designed to protect the rights of the human individual in the world.

We must, first, realise the great importance of the fact that the world's most significant 35 states have put their official hands to an agreement protecting the rights of the individual. You see, the rights of the human individual are only in jeopardy vis-a-vis the state. When normal, everyday, individuals threaten each other's rights the matter goes to established courts of law. But, things being what they are, the state has nowhere to go for satisfaction. Hence, when the states themselves commit themselves to the protection of the rights of their citizens we all must be glad. Even if signatory states still go on breaking the promises they have made -- which they do -- anyone can take them to task. Well, maybe not anyone really, unless "anyone" is called Mr. Jimmy Carter. So, for example, if the Soviet Union keeps harassing its "dissidents" after signing the "Third Basket" of principles, President Carter has every right to criticise.

Now, of course, the Soviet Union does not need to be taught how to get over that sort of embarrassment. President Leonid Brezhnev's new Soviet Constitution lays it down that the rights of the citizens are protected -- so long as they don't clash with "the interests of the state." Which is a genius of a loophole.

The following is a beauty of a game: The rights of the citizens are protected because we've signed the "Third Basket". The rights of the citizens are protected so long as they don't clash with the interests of the state. The state is based on the constitution. The constitution is decided by the state. The

interests of the state are decided by the state. The state wins. You lose.

But don't think that criticism gets you nowhere. Look at what's going on in Belgrade. The conference is supposed to convene in two stages: The first stage has already begun and will go on until late September to decide on the agenda of the matters to be discussed by the second stage, which will begin in October and include the actual presence of the leaders of the Western and Eastern nations of the world. Now, the first stage of the conference is still busy haggling over agenda matters. Western and Eastern nations are trying to outwit "Third Basket". The nations of the East -- the leftists -- know very well that the nations of the West -- the rightists -- are going to almost disregard the two other "baskets" and harp upon the issue of human rights till they're blue in the face. Each and every Western delegate is going to have a field-day playing this particular tune, and each and every Eastern delegate is going to have to sit through a recitation of lists of criticisms of this or that "violation" of human rights. This terrified the nations of the East are trying to sweep the carpet over the human rights issue as much as they respectively can.

So criticism is a terrifying weapon. But the farce is still a farce. Nations of the West are not the guardian angels of individual rights that they pretend they are. Including the principles into the Helsinki agreement may have been sincerely meant but the states themselves are not idealists. One only has to remember what Dr. Henry "Shutless" Kissinger said of this thing. He is reported to have found the human rights issue "boring" and the whole agreement nothing more than "a piece of paper." But then, if a whore is an idealist, Dr. Kissinger is an idealist.

It is, therefore, amusing to watch the two teams -- West and East -- play it out in Belgrade. The one delighting in pointing the accusing finger and the other terrified out of its wits lest the conference is allowed to dwell on the matter which raises the accusing finger.

I suggest we let them play it out and sit back and enjoy it. It can only be good for us on the whole. The more the issue of human rights becomes public and "trendy" the less human beings are going to suffer from the autocracy of a number of power-hungry men who refer to themselves as "The State".

susceptible to fresh damage from beatings. Yet doubts remain. And while we could corroborate many points in their accounts, Abdul Karim and his wife disagreed on one significant detail. He said that his wife was brought before him at Hebron about Oct. 25 -- and the detail of his testimony leaves little room for error. She had already told us that the date was Oct. 15.

THIS EBB AND FLOW of evidence is typical of torture allegations; and it illustrates the persistent difficulties of proof. In Abdul Karim's case, however, one piece of external evidence strongly suggests that something which the Israelis wish to hide did indeed happen to him. It comes from the Israelis themselves.

The day he was sent over the Jordan and up to Salt hospital, Dr. Hamzeh contacted Reuters and told them of Abdul Karim's condition. A Reuters' reporter in Israel asked the West Bank military authorities for an explanation.

He was told that Abdul Karim was a convicted Arab guerrilla and saboteur who had fallen ill in prison after serving three years of an 11-year sentence. He had asked the Israelis to let him go to Jordan for medical treatment, and they had agreed.

The story was a lie. Medical records in Bethlehem show, as we have said, that in February 1976 -- a year before his

release over the Allenby bridge -- Abdul Karim went, a free man, to the Bethlehem orthopaedic hospital, and made several further visits as an out-patient before his arrest. The mayor, Hannah Al Atrash, confirms that the arrest was in October 1976. Finally, we reproduce the picture of Abdul Karim and his wife taken on their 13th wedding anniversary. It was taken at the Photodavid studio in Bethlehem in the spring of 1976. The studio remembers taking it.

Mistaken identity can be ruled out. Few convicted "guerrillas and saboteurs" are allowed on mid-sentence over the Allenby bridge. Nor did the military authorities sound confused. The point, however, is not that they probably lied. The disquieting point is that the officer who told the Reuters by his superiors to do so -- or else lied on his own initiative, knowing he would not be punished if his superiors found out. Whatever happened to Omar Abdul Karim, in other words, was part of an officially-sanctioned system.

The judgement of the world

ON THE DAY after the United Nations had voted to establish the State of Israel in November, 1947, Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president

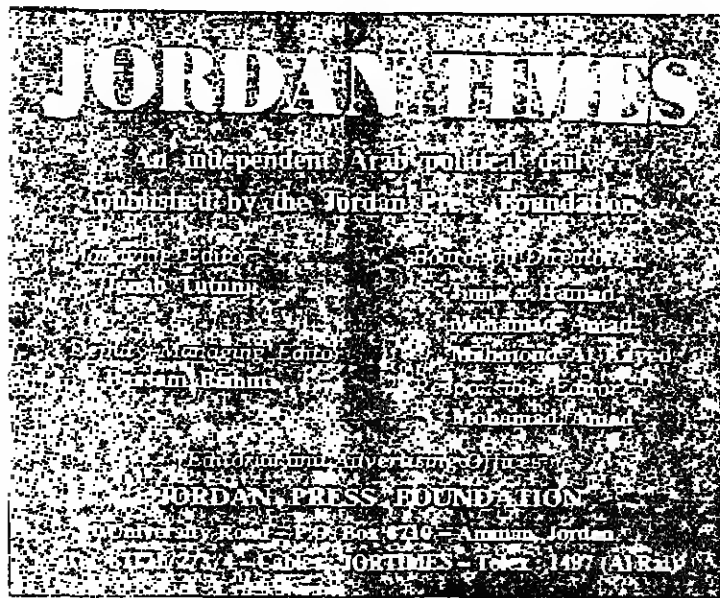
and, to many, its founding father, wrote: "I am certain that the world will judge the Jewish state by what it shall do with the Arabs." The dilemma his prophecy encapsulates leads directly to the situation revealed by our investigation.

Israel is a Jewish state, determined to remain so. Yet it rules 1.7 million Arabs -- for a decade 1.2 million of these have been under military occupation.

The reasons why Israel has since 1948 steadily increased its dominion over Arabs and their land go back into the infinite regress of cause-and-effect, charge and counter-charge that makes up modern Middle Eastern history. That is outside the scope of our inquiry. The fact is that most Israelis see no choice but to continue military occupation; while some Israelis actively want to do so, on the grounds of historic Jewish rights to the land.

Because Israel is so dependent on what Weizmann saw as the judgment of the world, it must try to ensure the judgment is favourable. The conflict between this international need and the domestic reality of military rule and Arab resistance expressed sometimes through terrorism seems to us the most concrete explanation of why torture has become, on the evidence, an accepted Israeli practice.

(To be continued)



ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian dailies Friday were concerned with the statements of His Majesty King Hussein to the Egyptian press and to the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas.

Al Ra'i said that the Jordanian leadership at present is concerned with coordinating Arab policy and defining the responsibilities for a unified Arab stand.

His Majesty in a talk with the Egyptian press revealed the situation in the Arab World and the political changes that have taken place in Israel. Jordan, the main country confronting Israel, is more experienced and more aware of Israeli movements than the rest of the Arab confrontation states. Thus it is Jordan who warns the Arabs of the potential danger arising from the hard-line Likud bloc's ascension to power in Israel calling Arab lands "liberated territory". Likud has announced that the occupied territories are "liberated lands" to the whole world though it knows it is not accepted internationally or by the Arabs.

Al Ra'i concluded that Jordan is not only concerned with Arab coordination and a unified Arab stand but is also concerned that the Arabs have a clear vision with regards to the Mid-East crisis. Jordan does not only warn the Arabs to patch up their differences but points out the place where an Israeli aggression might take place and why.

The paper points out that Israeli leadership considers Lebanon as a "stack of explosives" which can be used at any time to fulfill an Arab plan.

Al Sha'b said that His Majesty in an interview with Al Qabas, a Kuwaiti daily, talked about Jordan's commitment to the Palestinian problem and the rights of the Palestinians to determine their future on the soil of their homeland.

The paper added that this Jordanian policy is not just a political stand but a national commitment. The proof of this is that Jordan, in spite of the circumstances and conditions has remained loyal to its commitments in supporting the Palestinian people and their cause. Jordan insisted that the Palestinians be represented in any attempt at solving the problem, especially at the Geneva Conference.

Jordan accepted participation in the conference, as one of the confrontation states but not as a substitute for the Palestinians.

The paper added that the "Palestinian's existence" is the

core of what is called the Middle East crisis. The basis of this crisis is Israel's occupation of land at the expense of the Palestinians. The paper noted that Israel insists on eliminating Palestinian participation in attempted solutions of the problem because any international recognition of the Palestinian existence and the rights of the Palestinians on their own soil is contradictory to the existence of Israel.

The paper concluded that thus King Hussein's call for an Arab summit is of historical significance.

Al Dustour said that from the King Hussein's interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas one can really see the situation in the Mid-East.

The paper said that the situation in the Mid-East reveals that:

1. Israel is attempting to create a new status quo on Arab land, and

2. The confrontation line from the Yarmouk River to the Gulf of Aqaba acts as a protection line for the Arab oil countries.

The paper added that the above should be taken into consideration especially since:

1. The rise of the hard-line Likud to power with all its biblical allegations and public announcements that the West Bank and Gaza are "Israeli liberated lands";

2. Israel now possesses nuclear weapons; and

3. Israel's efforts to get Washington to give it the F-16 plane.

The paper noted that since the situation in the Mid-East has military dimensions the King has called for an Arab summit that can evaluate the military situation in the Mid-East. This summit is the first step towards fulfilling the basic requirements that Arabs can face the situation with strength and positiveness.

The paper said that these basic requirements are:

1. To consider all Arab countries, including the Arab oil countries, as confrontation states;

2. For Arab oil countries to help support the protection line from the Yarmouk River to the Aqaba Gulf; and

3. To patch up all inter-Arab differences.

The paper concluded that these basic requirements must be fulfilled if the Arabs are serious in facing all eventualities.

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JORDAN'S LEADING FIGURES OPEN THEIR HEARTS

A picture in the newspaper, official statements and political activities on the television, official trips and spectacular meetings with heads of state... This is what ordinary people know about the personalities taking decisions in their country. But one seems to forget that, in fact, these heads of government, ministers, high-ranking officers and director generals are also human beings who have a family life, one or more hobby and who can also laugh and dream...

The Jordan Times has met some of these personalities, who have humbly accepted to reveal the usually hidden aspects of their daily life and who talk of everything with an open heart. This week we meet Jordan's commanding Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker.

By Irene Ramadan
Special to the Jordan Times

An extraordinary blend of strength, stringency, charm and sprightliness... This is Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker in a few words. But in fact, it needs more than a few words to portray the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. You may think it is easy to catch the character of this handsome, attractive and affable figure. In fact you have in front of you a very rich character.

We met Sharif Zeid in his beautiful house in Hommar. His favourite place there is an interior garden looking on to a patio. Sharif Shaker's wife, Nawzad, and their elder daughter Nesrine (18) were also there. Their son, Shaker (16), is still in England, where he is studying.

It is useless to ask the commander-in-chief what he once dreamed of being... "Since I was a boy of six, I wanted to join the army," he said.

And so he did in 1951 after finishing his secondary studies at Victoria College in Alexandria. He graduated from the

British military academy at Sandhurst in 1955 and from the Command and General Staff College in the U.S. in 1964.

As for his record of service, it includes the following posts: Aide-de-camp to His Majesty King Hussein (1955-1957); Assistant Military Attaché at the Jordanian Embassy in London (1957-1958); Commander of an armoured brigade (1964); Commander of an armoured division (1970); Operational Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff (1970-1972) and Chief of the General Staff itself from March 5, 1972.

Among his many medals are the Jordanian Star 1st Class, the Renaissance Medal 1st Class and the Jordanian Independence Medal.

From Cadet to Commander-in-Chief

Why has Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker always been a born soldier?

"I have continuously been fascinated by the army. Not only because of the defence of one's country but also by its whole spirit: discipline, courage, arms, adventure and the grandiose atmosphere..."

Sharif Zeid started his military career as a cadet. Now he is leading 80,000 men. What is it like to be commander-in-chief?

"Every soldier aims to gain as many stripes as he can. So beside the personal satisfaction, the rank of commander-in-chief means for me the continuous improvement of the Armed Forces as regards training, equipment etc. It means -- especially for me -- getting involved as much as possible with everyone serving in our Arm-

ed Forces. Our ordinary soldier is so loyal, so enthusiastic and so professional that he deserves to be well served by his commander. We must also help him, in a social way, to improve his family life.

"It is also a post of great responsibility when it comes to taking decisions dealing with people's lives."

Mrs. Nawzad Shaker

While answering these questions, Sharif Zeid had a very attentive listener, his beautiful, feminine wife. She is his number one, who never complains about his job. She also does not hide the fact that she has always admired his way of life ever since she met him.

When was it?

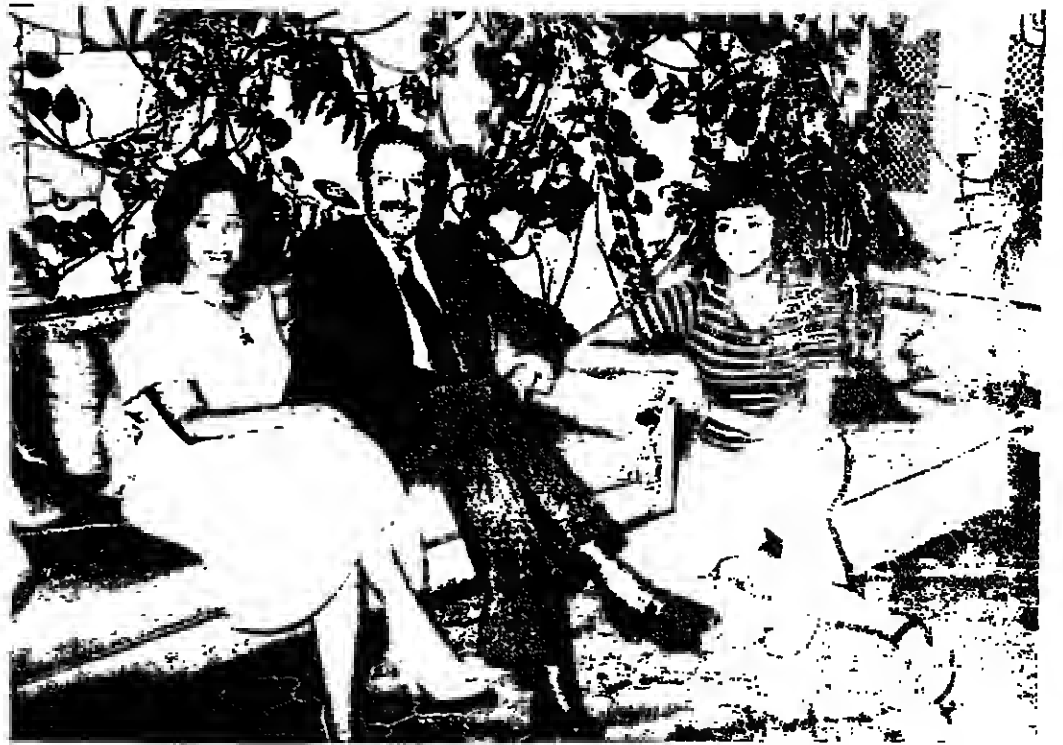
At a dinner given in 1955 by King Hussein. Mrs. Shaker -- at that time Miss Nawzad Sati -- came with her uncle Dr. Shawkat Sati, who was then King Abdullah's doctor. She was studying in Beirut at the Beirut College for Women.

What did she like in her future husband?

"His discretion. Having been used to the aggressive students at the AUB, I felt something different in Zeid. He was an inner person."

After this dinner, they kept up contact and later on got engaged in Beirut at the Saint Georges Hotel for King Hussein's birthday. Present that Nov. 14, 1956 were the Queen Mother, Dory and Nayla Chamoun, Salah Tukani, Bahjat Talhouni and her uncle. These Jordanian figures were then attending an Arab meeting on the Suez crisis.

The next year Sharif Zeid and Nawzad Sati married -- on Sep. 4, 1957, Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker's birthday.



The commander-in-chief sits with his wife Nawzad and daughter Nesrine in their home in Hommar.

"Miss Negative"

This touch of romanticism has passed from parents to children. When asked what her favourite book was, Nesrine Shaker, a lively brunette, answered: Goethe with the Wind. Nesrine has just finished her first year at Santa Clara University in the U.S. She is now planning to study sociology and to become a social worker.

Meanwhile, she is called "Miss Negative" at home, because she likes to discuss the "why" and the "how" of everything. And her parents encourage this with their daughter.

Mrs. Shaker adds with humour:

"These days we are not conversing, we are debating! And we are waiting for our son Shaker, who is arriving back from London soon. So our debates will be more animated."

Rommel and MacArthur

The commander-in-chief enjoys such discussions, which he finds relaxing. And now he has no time to practise his favourite sports: Cricket, horse riding and football. In his free time he likes to see his close friends or to read. He has just started the American best-seller Roots.

The military heroes he admires are Rommel and MacArthur. For him Rommel is the master of desert war and MacArthur the brilliant strategist of island hopping. But at the same time he finds MacArthur "pompous, humourless and unobtainable". He likes the chivalrous touch of Rommel.

Sharif Zeid lives and works discreetly. Without showing it, he is conscious of every single detail of his job. In life, he likes valuable and true friendship, honest and straightforward people. He is himself so straightforward that a relation once told him he was too blunt. Above all he hates hypocrisy.

Being 100 per cent military, Sharif Zeid is a very disciplined man. Every day he wakes up at 6.30 and at 7.45 he is in his office. Moreover, in the

evening -- wherever he is and with whom he is -- he always comes back home at midnight -- like Cinderella.

A Hidden Poet

The commander-in-chief also seems to be a hidden poet. If you ask him what his favourite time of day is, he will say:

"The early morning. It is a cheerful time which carries the promise of a new day. Besides, I like sunrise in Amman and the morning breeze."

Is the commander-in-chief a man of war or peace?

"Basically all soldiers are more for peace than for war, because they know better than

anyone else the high cost of war: suffering, death and destruction -- physical, as well as moral. But I am convinced that we must always be on a war footing. We must be ready to fight at any moment to defend our country, our peace and our rights."

He would like his country to get to a point of self-sufficiency, relying on its military and economic strength.

Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker belongs to that kind of people who are born conscientious and great and who are trying to achieve great and beneficial things.

Look out for another leading personality here next week.



18-year-old Nesrine -- or "Miss Negative".

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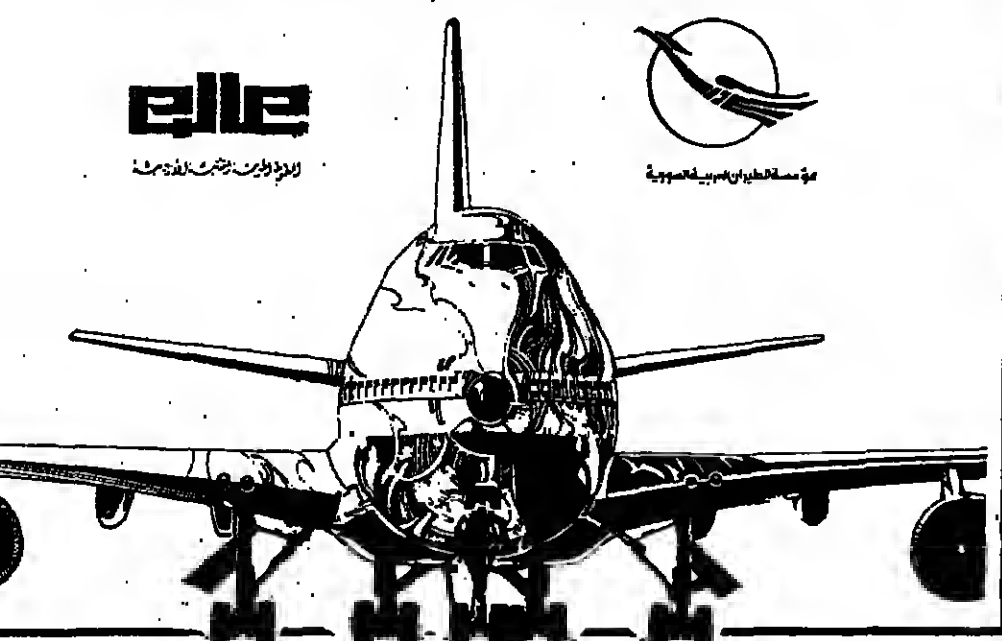
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WFC plans emergency food stock

MANILA, June 24 (R). — The World Food Council (WFC) today approved a 22-point international action programme to eradicate world hunger.

The plan calls for donor countries to contribute to a 500,000 ton food stock for use as emergency aid.

It envisages a minimum of 10 million ton of food aid being stockpiled annually to allow for forward planning.

Through increased economic assistance it aims to increase food production in developing countries by at least four per cent a year.

It also seeks an expansion

and liberalisation of world food trade.

The integrated action plan agreed by the council recommends that:

— Countries which need special attention because of the seriousness of their food problems and their exposure to frequent natural disasters should be given special treatment by governments and United Nations agencies;

— These "food priority countries", assisted on request by U.N. agencies, should put forward specific proposals for increasing their food production by at least four per cent a year;

Japanese research foundation warns of possible economic crisis by 1981

TOKYO, June 24 (AFP). — A second international oil crisis -- a purely economic one unlike the partly political crisis of 1973 -- could occur by 1981, a semi-governmental research foundation warned yesterday.

World Economic Information Services (WEIS), affiliated to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, sounded the warning in a report entitled "Energy and the world economy in the 1980s."

The report assumes that petroleum will continue to be the world's main energy source throughout the next decade and admits that forecasts depend on many variables.

But, if the combined oil output of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC) averages 45 million barrels per day between 1980 and 1985 as predicted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the report says, three outcomes can be visualised -- two of them alarming.

First, if world economic growth averaged 7 per cent in real terms during the next four years, an international oil-supply crisis would occur as early as 1981.

Secondly, if world economic growth averaged 5 per cent in real terms, the crunch would come by 1984.

In either case, international oil prices would shoot up by 1990 to about \$30 per barrel, three times the 1975 level, even before taking inflation into account. With annual inflation of 5 per cent, the price would be \$60 per barrel by 1990.

Thirdly, if average world economic growth were held to 3 per cent in real terms, the oil crisis would be delayed until 1990, the report said.

Brazil, Iran to step up bilateral trade

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 24 (R). — Brazil and Iran have signed an agreement aimed at stepping up their bilateral trade to \$6.5 billion in five years, according to an official note from the Brazilian Finance Ministry published yesterday.

The agreement seals over two years' negotiations and was signed at the end of a two-day official visit of Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Housang Ansari.

In the terms of the agreement, Brazil will quadruple its petroleum imports from Iran by next year and, by 1979 will be importing one-quarter of its oil needs from Iran. Brazil imports some 80 per cent of the petroleum consumed in the country.

Iran, according to the agreement, undertakes to spend at least 30 per cent of its receipts from oil exports to Brazil on investments here and imports of Brazilian products.

The agreement is for five

years, renewable for equal periods. It also contains provisions for feasibility studies on joint ventures, including one to produce one million tons of soybeans per year in Brazil and set up a soybean crushing plant in Iran.

Fire destroys Israeli crude oil reservoir

ASHKELON, Israel, June 24 (R). — Fire gutted a crude oil reservoir in the Mediterranean oil port here yesterday and some 3,000 tons of fuel were destroyed.

The oil terminal is at the Mediterranean end of the El-Ashkelon oil pipeline.

Harbour sources said the fire in which nobody was hurt, was caused by sparks from welding operations.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* CANBERRA, June 24 (R). — The International Whaling Commission (IWC) today announced a 36 per cent reduction in whaling quotas for next year. At its annual meet in Canberra the 16-member commission reduced the quota for all whale species by more than 10,000, setting a killing limit of 17,839 for the North Atlantic, North Pacific and the Southern Hemisphere.

* GENEVA, June 24 (R). — Canadian Trade Unionist Joe Morris has been elected chairman of the governing Executive Board of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for the next year, the ILO announced today. Mr. Morris, 64, President of the Canadian Labour Congress is the first non-governmental chairman in the ILO's 58-year history.

* OTTAWA, June 24 (R). — Canada announced yesterday that the price of its crude oil will rise one Canadian dollar a barrel, to \$10.75, from July 1, and by three subsequent one-dollar-a-barrel increases at six-month intervals.

Congress bars use of U.S. money for loans to 7 nations

WASHINGTON, June 24 (R). — The U.S. House of Representatives has delivered President Carter a major rebuff by barring use of U.S. money for international loans to Cuba, communist countries in Indochina, Uganda and Marxist Mozambique.

The vote barring use of American cash for loans to these countries by international lending agencies came last night as the House approved a \$7 billion foreign aid appropriations bill for next year.

The House also barred payments of any U.S. reparations to Vietnam. The effect of this proposal was to go back on former President Richard Nixon's offer of \$3.25 billion in post-war economic reconstruction aid for Vietnam.

President Carter had declared that any moves placing restrictions on use of U.S. money by international institutions could jeopardise continued U.S. participation inside the bodies.

The countries affected in Indochina were Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. In another move, the House refused to cut U.S. military aid to South Korea over allegations of a South Korean government campaign to buy influence in the U.S.

Democratic Representative Tom Harkin of Iowa, sponsor of the amendment to cut funds to South Korea, said approval of the proposal would be "a clear signal to the dictator in South Korea that we are deeply concerned about violations of human rights in that country."

The House also approved a Carter administration request

to restore \$3.1 million in military credit sales for Nicaragua. The House appropriations committee had deleted the funds because of alleged human rights violations there. But it stippled \$700,000 in military training funds for Argentina from the bill because of alleged human rights abuses.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian dinars for a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency.

Saudi riyal	92.5	83.0
Lebanese pound	107.5	108.0
Syrian pound	80.9	81.2
Iraqi dinar	940	945
Kuwaiti dinar	1137	1141
Egyptian pound	467	477
Libyan dinar	740	750
UAE dirham	83.5	84.5
U.K. sterling	569	575
U.S. dollar	320	322
German mark	140.3	140.7
Swiss franc	67	67.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	34.7	37.8

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market today. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	= 1.7197 / 99	U.S. dollars
One dollar	= 2.3533 / 43	West German marks
	2.4920 / 35	Dutch guilders
	2.4905 / 15	Swiss francs
	36.07 / 10	Belgian francs
	4.9380 / 90	French francs
	884.75 / 85	Italian lire
	271.90 / 272.00	Japanese yen
	4.4420 / 80	Swedish crowns
	5.3190 / 3200	Norwegian crowns
	6.0590 / 0615	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices were generally steady in active trading Friday on the New York Stock Exchange, where the Dow Jones industrial average gained more than four points.

The market was higher at the opening and trading went on in a narrow range throughout most of the session. Investors were apparently encouraged by statistics from the Federal Reserve showing a light drop in the money supply. Recent pressure on some blue chip and glamour issues also seemed to abate today.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a two to one margin (976 to 460) as most groups of shares closed on a slightly higher tone.

Aluminum and gold mine issues, however, were generally lower. IBM rose four points to 266, while British Petroleum gained 3/8 to \$16 in active trading.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 229.70, a gain of 4.33 points; Transp at 238.41, a gain of 0.44; utilities at 115.73, a gain of 0.28, 26,490,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,130,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed mostly steady to slightly firmer Friday on the last day of the account with trading subdued ahead of start of dealings in the new B.P. issue on Monday, dealers said.

Government stocks maintained opening gains of up to 3/16 in shorts while longs were steady to a shade harder. Leaders were mixed to slightly higher after small irregular movements and at 15:00 the F.T. Index was up 1.3 at 466.2.

Oils were firm with B.P. up 5p after news that the share issue was oversubscribed and Shell rose 7p. Banks were occasionally slightly firmer.

Mining shares remained quietly mixed to higher and Australian shares were slightly harder where changed.

John Brown was an early feature among leaders, gaining 3p ahead of results, but the rise was reduced to a penny after the figures, dealers said. Also firm in engineering were GKN, up 2p and Hawker, 6p higher ahead of the share split, they added.

Reynolds Parsons lost 5p on balance after being suspended prior to an announcement of a proposed merger with Clarke Chapman. Clarke Chapman gained 3p after 6p on the news.

Among leading industrials losing a penny or so higher were Glaxo, B&F, Unilever, Lucas, A.P. Cement and Metal Box, while Tubes rose 6p and ICI lost 2p.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$140.20 / oz.

MR. IAIN GUEST

Would Mr. Iain Guest, believed to be travelling in Jordan, or anyone who knows his whereabouts, please contact the Consular Section of the British Embassy urgently.

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69017 from 9-10 p.m.

Sunday's races at the Royal Racing Club - Marka

FIRST RACE — 3:30 p.m.

FOR LOCAL COUNTRY HORSES, THIRD CLASS
DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

1. Sami Yacoub	SULTANEH	Owner	Ali	59.5
2. Mousa Faris	EL WAIE	Marmar	—	59
3. Oelah Tallak	J. MARKA	Owner	Salah	55.5
4. Khalil Burqan	ALA MAHLAK	Owner	—	55
5. Ali A. Soukout	HAMSHARI	Owner	Mousa	54
6. Ali A. Soukout	SHALABIEH	Owner	Ahmad	52.5
7. Adil K. Hattar	NIMIR EL FALA	Marmar	—	52
8. Saif H. Majali	JAWWAL	Ali	Mikhail	50
9. Rashid Odeh	TISLAM	Khalaf	—	48.5
10. Daifallah Mohammad	MALHAH	Owner	—	49.5
11. Mishrif Aifen	DABHA	Owner	Ibrahim	47.5
12. Ghalib Haddadin	FITNIH	Owner	Atieh	45.5
13. Musallam El Ayed	DARA	Bilon	—	45.5

SECOND RACE — 4:00 p.m.

FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1,000 METRES

1. Sherifeh Nofah Naser	KAYAD	Ibrahim	Atieh	54
2. H.H. Sherif Hussein I. Naser	EYAR EL KHAIL	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	50
3. Sherifeh Nour Naser	SINDAH	Ibrahim	Salami	47
4. Rashid Odeh	MORJAN	Khalaf	—	54
5. Mazin S. Lallas	SINNAR	Marmar	Saad	50
6. Wassef Bisharat	HANI EL HANA	Bilon	Mikhail	50
7. Sami Yaqoub	HOLWAN	Kamal	Salah	50

THIRD RACE — 4:30 p.m.

FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

1. Tawfiq Ksous	KWAIES	Marmar	Saad	57
2. Nadim Al Dajani	MAHIR	Kamal	—	57
3. Jean Seznec	ANBAR	Kamal	—	57
4. Sami Yaqoub	HILDA	Kamal	Salah	55.5
5. Saif H. Majali	AL NEES	Ali	Mousa	54
6. Saif H. Majali	RADDAD	Ali	Radwan	50
7. H.H. Sherif Hussein I. Naser	EL ZALEEM	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	53
8. Sherifeh Nour Naser	BAHIR	Ibrahim	Atieh	50
9. Wassef Bisharat	B. IBRAHIM	Bilon	Mikhail	52.5

FOURTH RACE — 5:00 p.m.

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1,400 METRES

1. Ali A. Soukout	WADI AMAL	Owner	Mousa	56
2. H.H. Sherif Jamil Ibn Naser	IZZ EL KHAIL	Ibrahim	Salameh	54
3. Sherifeh Nofah Naser	JOHAR AMMAN	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	52
4. Wassef Bisharat	MOSTNIK	Bilon	—	54
5. Wassef Bisharat	ZOBRAH	Bilon	Mikhail	54
6. Mousa Faris	RADHAN	Marmar	Saad	54
7. Nadim Al Dajani	AMIR	Kamal	—	54
8. Bahjat Fanous	A. EL HAWA	Owner	—	54

FIFTH RACE — 5:30 p.m.

FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1,600 METRES

CUP AND PRIZE OF H.H. SHERIF NASER IBN JAMIL
JD 3000.

1. Saif H. Majali	MARHAB	Ali	Radwan	61
2. Khalil F. Burqan	TULL	Marmar	—	61
3. Sami Yaqoub	FAWAR	Kamal	Salah	61
4. Sami Yaqoub	MAHASIN	Kamal	Mousa	49.5
5. Bahjat Fanous	EL TAMRI	Owner	—	61
6. Wassef Bisharat	MARTINIS	Bilon	Mikhail	59
7. Faiek Kawar	H. EL WAFRA	Bilon	Saad	57.5
8. El Talia'a Stable	BAHRAIN	Sadoun	Talal	57
9. El Talia'a Stable	SAKLAWI	Sadoun	—	55

SIXTH RACE — 6:00 p.m.

FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 2,000 METRES

1. Ismael Salem	DAHIS	Bilon	Ali	64
2. Wassef Bisharat	BAYADIR	Bilon	Mikhail	62
3. Saif H. Majali	SINAJ	Ali	Radwan	54
4. Sherifeh Nofah Naser	HALAWAH	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	52.5
5. H.H. Sherif Hussein I. Naser	S. EL BOLAD	Ibrahim	Salameh	50
6. Tawfiq Ksous	S. AYYOUB	Marmar	Saad	46
7. Samer Farkouh	NAHLAWI	Marmar	—	46

CAMELS RACE — 6:30 p.m.

DISTANCE 2,200 METRES

1. JROUH SALEM	DARWAN	JROUH	—	—
2. ALI SULIMAN	FOZIH	ALI	—	—
3. FARAJ SULIMAN	NORAH	FARAJ	—	—
4. SAMAH SALEM	SALWA	SAMAH	—	—
5. MIFLIH ZAAL	JALWA	MIFLIH	—	—
6. BASHIR SALIM	MURRAH	BASHIR	—	—
7. DAMNAN OUMASHAN	JILFIH	DAMNAN	—	—
8. SALIM SAMER	KAMRAN	SALEM	—	—

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Dispute with no one over past conditions or costly mistakes and you can grasp the chance for a new beginning which could fit in with your talents. You can easily get the backing you need.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Ideal day to make plans that can bring greater abundance in the future. Show others that you are a reasoning person.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Use of a new system now can improve the quality of your work. Be alert to new interests that can add to present income.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A new activity could be just the tonic you need at this time. Show loved one that you are truly devoted.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A day to entertain new acquaintances and make a fine impression on them. Show that you have poise.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid controversial subjects when dealing with others today. Take no chances with your reputation. Be careful of finances.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study new ways to add to your income and decide what is best for you. Sidestep one who spends money foolishly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Steer clear of those you've had altercations with in the past and avoid trouble. A time to engage in your favorite hobby.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't waste energy over something you can't do anything about. A new philosophy of life can be most rewarding now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make it your business to meet interesting personalities, but maintain loyalty with long-time friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Obey every rule and regulation that applies to you and thereby escape possible trouble with the law. Be logical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you take a new view of an old problem, you find that this can prove most advantageous. Be more objective in your thinking.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use good judgment for solving a dispute and forget those hunches which are erroneous now. Be careful of strangers.

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YOU'VE GOT TO EAT CROW

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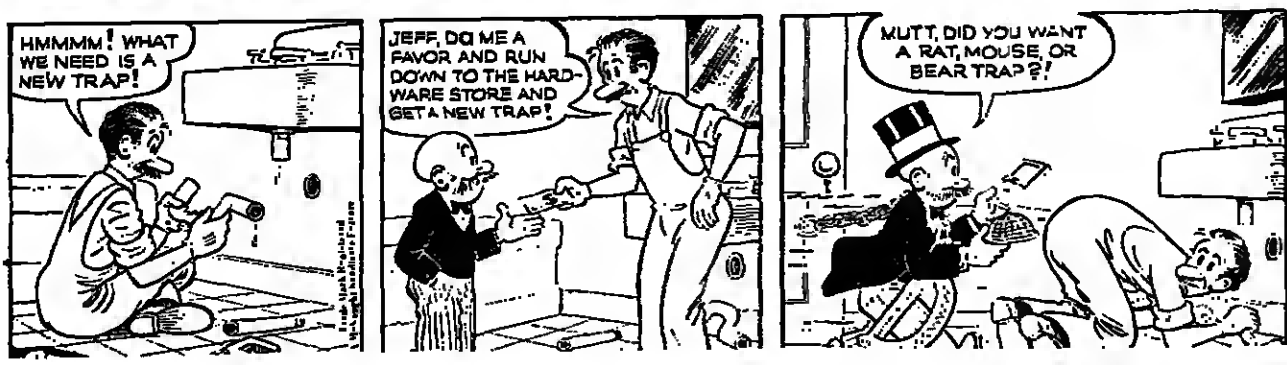
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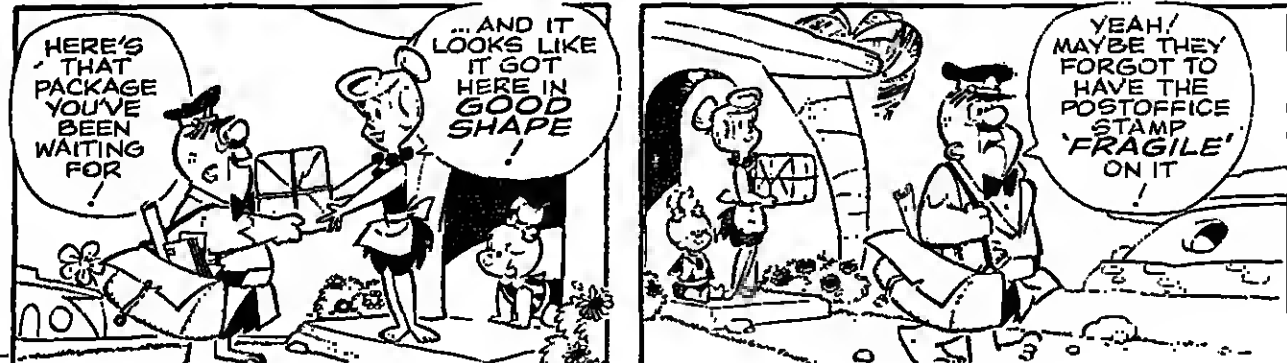
ANDY GAPP



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LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



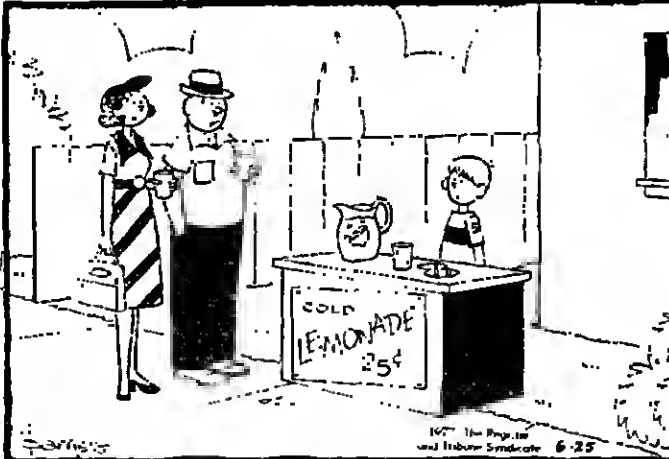
GERMANY

Focke

"Quick, Daddy, come here... we're playing Noah's ark!"

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"What you need here are soft lights, music, comfortable seats and a fresh lemon."

PROVERB

He that fights and runs away lives to fight another day.

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BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

1977 by Chicago Tribune

North-South vulnerable.

South deals.

NORTH

103

QJ842

K987

K10

WEST

198752

AK

654

Q5

EAST

Q4

10975

A2

98743

SOUTH

AK6

63

QJ103

AJ62

The bidding:

South West North East

1 1 2 ~ Pass

3NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠.

monds and come to nine tricks via two spades, three diamonds and four clubs. Lucky guess in clubs! No, simply good technique re-

warded. Let's see why declarer chose to play the way he did.

After the spade lead and continuation, declarer realized that he could afford to

lose the lead only once more before the opponents could run spade tricks. Therefore, he would not have time to set

up hearts—he would have to get his tricks in the minor suits.

He could count on two spade tricks and three diamonds once the ace was re-

moved. So, he needed four tricks in clubs. If East held the queen of clubs, there was no way declarer could make

four tricks in the suit. The best distribution he could hope for was a 4-3 split, and all East would have to do to

guarantee a club trick for the defense would be to cover the ten of clubs when led.

The fourth club held by one of the defenders would have to be higher than declarer's six.

The only way to score four tricks from his club combination is to find West with the queen of clubs no more than twice guarded. Declarer played for that chance and deserved to make his contract.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMOFY

GORPY

LAUTAC

POMLEY

Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLUKE KHAKI BAFFLE AROUND

Answer: She was lit as a kiddy, but couldn't get this—"A BEAU" (bow)

(Answers Monday)

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Er uh

How much longer?

BE QUICK TO SUPPLY THE MISSING WORDS.

AGATE CARINA

LAVER ACARID

ILIAD MENAGE

ELA HEDELM

NOT CORD ELM

SPEAR AIL

TOD COVET

TAG WIDE TAKE

AGA ROZDIR

COLANE AMOLE

TRENIC BORED

TANIST BASSO

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. Cupid

2. One addressed

3. Convulsive cry

4. Belgian commune

5. Enchantment

6. Carefree

7. Bird is one

8. Mouth comb, term

9. Daily

10. Fishing basket

11. Today

12. Hebrew universe

13. Central points

14. Wings

15. Sweet roll

16. Possessive adjective

17. Low Dutch: abbr.

18. Plural ending

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:

6:00 Quran

6:05 Children's programme

6:30 English for television

7:00 When things were not

8:00 News in Arabic

Channel 6:

7:30 News in Hebrew

7:45 Varieties

8:00 Portridge

8:15 Sunday variety show

10:00 News in English

10:15 Movie of the week

Channel 3:

7:00 Family programme

Channel 3:

7:00 Family programme

Channel 3:

7:00 Family programme

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show

7:30 News

7:45 News reports

8:00 Sign off

10:00 Leisure choice

11:00 My kind of music

11:30 Catch the words

11:45 Arab centres

12:00 Pop session

12:15 Arab centres

12:30 Pop session

12:45 Arab centres

13:00 Pop session

13:15 Arab centres

13:30 Pop session

13:45 Arab centres

14:00 News

14:10 Radio magazine

14:20 Good vibrations

14:30 Concert hour

14:40 Old favourites

14:50 Easy listening

15:00 Jordan weekly

15:10 Pop session

15:20 News summary

15:30 Pop session

15:40 Arab centres

15:50 Pop session

16:00 Arab centres

16:10 Pop session

16:20 Arab centres

16:30 Pop session

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Catholic Church faces 1st schism in 100 years Pope threatens to excommunicate rebel Archbishop Lefebvre

VATICAN CITY, June 24 (R). — Pope Paul has rejected rebel Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre's terms for a reconciliation and warned him that he risks an irreparable break with the Roman Catholic Church, Vatican officials said today.

The Pope sent his threat — a clear allusion to excommunication — in a letter to Monsignor Lefebvre on June 20, Vatican spokesman Romeo Pancerioli told reporters.

It was aimed at blocking the French prelate's plans to ordain 14 priests at his unauthorized traditionalist seminary at Ecône, Switzerland, on June 29. He has already been suspended from priestly functions.

The Pope begged Monsignor Lefebvre not to carry out "a new, extremely grave act of disobedience" which would make irreparable the break within the unity of the church of the Catholic Community. Father Pancerioli added.

In a secret exchange with the Vatican, Monsignor Lefebvre asked for a revision of several key acts of the 1962-65 Vatican Ecumenical Council, officials said.

He said he would postpone his ordination plans if the Vatican agreed to revise Ecumenical Council declarations on

Christian unity, liturgical reform and religious liberty, they added.

Monsignor Lefebvre also asked authorization to celebrate mass with extensive use of Latin and in the abolished traditional Tridentine rite, the officials said.

He demanded official recognition of his Fraternity of Saint Pius X at Ecône, they told reporters.

A spokesman for Monsignor Lefebvre said in Ecône today that the archbishop will go ahead as planned with the traditionalist ordination on June 29 of 14 priests despite the warning from Pope Paul.

The spokesman, at Monsignor Lefebvre's Ecône seminary said the archbishop was at present in France but would return shortly for the ordination ceremony.

The spokesman said the letter sent by the Pope on June 20 "has changed absolutely nothing. It does not move us one bit, even if they talk of an 'irreparable break' with the Vatican," he told reporters.

The spokesman said preparations were well under way for the ordination of 14 priests and 22 sub-deacons. "Several special trains are expected to bring supporters of the archbishop from France, West

Germany and Italy," he said.

Because thousands of people were expected, the ceremony would have to be held outdoors under a giant tarpaulin," the spokesman added.

Monsignor Lefebvre's demands were in line with most conservative opposition to the Roman Catholic Church's dialogue with other Christian churches as well as with other religions, its use of modern languages instead of Latin and its advocacy of religious liberty.

In an open challenge to the Pope, Monsignor Lefebvre came to Rome on June 6 and declared in a speech that he could not adapt to "the ways of the new church" and that "I do not want to die a Protestant."

If the archbishop is excommunicated, the church would face its first schism in more than a century.

Bhutto meets PNA leaders

RAWALPINDI, June 24 (R). — Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto met opposition leaders here last night for two hours but without settling differences over the holding of new general elections. However, both sides said agreement might be reached within a few days.

The meeting began a few hours after Mr. Bhutto's return from a five-day tour of Moslem countries.

The opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) demanded an immediate meeting to discuss stalled efforts to arrange elections in October. It claims that elections last March were rigged and, in a prolonged campaign of agitation, the opposition forced Mr. Bhutto to concede fresh elections. At least 350 people were killed in the political violence.

Last night's meeting failed to produce progress on the details holding up the signature of a basic agreement reached last week. The agreement covers the release of prisoners arrested during the agitation campaign, the lifting of a state of emergency and measures to ensure a fair election.

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Mediterranean socialist meeting goes into private session following rally

VALLETTA, June 24 (R). — A meeting of Mediterranean Socialists went into private session yesterday following a public rally during which Israel and the United States were denounced and a prediction was made that the left would soon be in power in France.

Also, Egyptian journalists of

the National Progressive Unionist Coalition Party distributed a letter among the delegates, of 16 countries, decrying "intimidation and repression" in their country.

They accused the government of brutally suppressing troubles last January over increased food prices and said President Anwar Sadat had

put hundreds of people on trial with a minimum of safeguards. Many of their comrades faced life imprisonment for simply "standing by the people."

The second conference of Socialist organisations and parties of the Mediterranean opened on Monday. It will end tomorrow.

At the rally just outside Valletta, Mr. Salim Masoud of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said no peace would come to the Mediterranean until there was a Palestinian homeland.

Prof. Andreas Papanastasiou of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement encouraged delegates to fight against American and fascist elements which he said were at work in the Mediterranean.

Mr. Papanastasiou added he felt there would be no peace on Cyprus until all foreign armed forces left the island.

Mr. Victor Leduc of the French United Socialist Party assured the rally that leftwing forces would soon be in power in France and Mr. Juan Garces of the Federation of Spanish Socialist Parties urged delegates to work for the removal of American bases on Spanish soil.

Carter will continue human rights campaign

NEW YORK, June 24 (R). — President Carter said last night he would continue his human rights campaign despite the controversy it has aroused.

He thanked Americans for supporting him and said their attitude meant that the United States had become a beacon for the oppressed and for political prisoners throughout the world.

Speaking at a Democratic Party fund-raising dinner, the president stressed that the human rights campaign was an integral part of his policies during his first term in the White House.

Mr. Carter acknowledged that his decision to speak out openly was controversial, but he said he could do no less because Americans wanted him to reaffirm the commitments to liberty made by America's founding fathers 200 years ago.

He did not mention the criticism directed at him by Soviet leaders, who have expressed deep anger over his support for Russian dissidents.

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U.S. firm stopped from co-producing Israeli secret military system

WASHINGTON, June 24 (R). — An American company has been barred by the Defense Department from entering into arrangements with an Israeli firm for co-production on a secret military communications system, the White House said yesterday.

Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell cited security as the reason, denying suggestions that the United States made the decision in an attempt to force Israel to make concessions to the Arabs.

He said only NATO countries were being considered for co-production of the system SYLVANIA, a subsidiary of General Telephone and Electronics (GTE).

The New York Times quoted unidentified members of Congress as saying co-production with Tadiran Israel Electronics Industries, Ltd., had been blocked not for security reasons but because the United States was pressing Israel to withdraw to its 1967 boundaries.

Mr. Powell said the allegation was totally untrue and added: "There are certain items we do not furnish to other countries, even allies."

In Tel Aviv, a director of Tadiran, which is also partially owned by GTE, said that barring co-production was taking "unfair advantage" of Israeli technology. Mr. Elkana Caspi said the communications system had cost his firm "a fortune to develop" and that it would try to find another American firm to complete the project. If not, he added, Tadiran would complete the development on its own and market the new set in Europe.

At the White House, Presidential Spokesman Powell, discussing co-production, said the United States recently signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Britain and Canada to spur development of weapons. These could lead to approval of co-production of the military communications system between SYLVANIA and the two NATO countries.

OECD meet pushes W. Germany, Japan to run payments deficit

PARIS, June 24 (R). — West Germany and Japan came under pressure at an international meeting of finance ministers here today to run substantial payments deficits to help weaker countries balance their accounts and reduce unemployment.

The warning came from the United States and Britain.

They expressed concern that West Germany and Japan may not reach their target for economic growth this year, and that too much of their expansion is going into exports.

United States Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal told the ministerial conference of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that no nation could expect to be an island of prosperity in a sea of economic troubles.

"In virtually every country represented here, unemployment is at a totally unacceptable level," he said. "The most of our countries, inflation is too high, and many of our nations are experiencing external payments deficits which cannot be long sustained."

OECD estimates put the number of unemployed in the whole area at 15 million, and officials expect the total to reach 16 million by the end of this year unless present policies are changed.

The 24-nation OECD as a group is heading for a deficit of just under 30 billion.

As economic recovery in the U.S. gathers pace, increased fuel and other imports are expected to fall short of its growth target of five per cent this year, while international economists believe Japan has little chance of reaching its 6.7 per cent goal by the end of the financial year next April.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey told the finance ministers: "The stronger countries must be prepared to run substantial current accounts deficits. Otherwise, the total OECD position can never add up satisfactorily."

The OECD groups the United States, Canada, Japan, Western Europe, Australia and

Peking confirms Vance will visit in August Giscard d'Estaing briefs Vance on his talks with Brezhnev

PARIS, June 24 (R). — President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France today called in visiting U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for a full briefing on the Franco-Soviet summit talks earlier this week with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Vance told reporters after his meeting with the French leader that he will deliver the contents of the hour-long briefing to President Carter tomorrow. He gave no details of what Mr. Giscard d'Estaing told him.

But the French leader was thought likely to have told Mr. Vance about Soviet concern at the lack of progress in the SALT arms limitations talks, informed sources said.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing has already stated that Mr. Brezhnev expressed this concern during his three-day stay at Rambouillet Chateau, outside Paris, at the beginning of this week.

Mr. Vance said the U.S. had followed the Franco-Soviet summit with interest and appreciated advice from the leaders of other countries.

But he implicitly ruled out any French mediation between Washington and Moscow. "The relations between the United States and the Soviet Union are frank and we are exchanging views with them on many subjects at all times," Mr. Vance said.

Mr. Vance is in Paris for the ministerial meeting of the 24-member Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The French leader disclosed after his summit talks with Mr. Brezhnev that the Kremlin is worried about the SALT talks and wants a return to the "spirit of Vladivostok" — a reference to the 1975 meeting between President Ford and Mr. Brezhnev.

Mr. Vance said after his meeting with the French leader "President Giscard d'Estaing conveyed to me some information with respect to his meeting with Secretary General Brezhnev, which he asked me to convey to President Carter. I shall do so tomorrow morning while having breakfast with President Carter in the United States."

Mr. Vance confirmed that he would visit Peking at the end of August.

In Peking, Chinese officials today also confirmed that Mr. Vance will visit Peking in August but declined further comment.

An official spokesman at the Chinese Foreign Ministry told Reuters that following custom there would be no advance announcement in Peking of Mr. Vance's trip. "I confirm he is coming," the spokesman added.

The U.S. State Department announced two days ago that

Mr. Vance would visit Peking from August 22 to 28 "to further our conversations in light of the Shanghai Communiqué towards normalising relations."

Analysts in Peking generally doubted his talks would produce a formula for full Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations but stressed President Carter's administration had not spent out its exact position on China.

Under the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué, signed by former President Nixon, the two countries agreed to exchange liaison offices. The Taiwan question has been the main stumbling block to full relations.

China is demanding Washington break its ties with Taiwan and scrap the mutual defence treaty with the Chinese Nationalists.

The secretary of state was expected to meet Chairman Hua Kuo-feng but his main talks in Peking are likely to be with Senior Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien.

Mr. Vance visited China in 1975 and met the then Senior Vice Premier, Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, who was purged last year in a bitter power struggle.

With party and state congresses scheduled for later this year, it is possible there will be further changes in the Chinese leadership before Mr. Vance's arrival — including the return of Mr. Teng.

British cabinet introduces bill for universal suffrage to Euro-parliament

LONDON, June 24 (R). — A big step towards the creation of a European Parliament directly elected by the people was made today when Britain, after doubts and delays, announced a bill setting out its own part of the arrangements.

Hopes are now boosted that Britain may be ready by the middle of next year, when it is planned that the peoples of the European Common Market should directly elect their Euro-assembly for the first time.

Legislation has been on its way through the parliaments of all the other eight community parliaments for some time, and in the last few days the assemblies of France, West Germany and Holland approved their bills.

The recent election of a new Irish government has temporarily held up plans there, but it is hoped to get new legislation under way in the autumn.

Britain's Labour government this morning published a bill proposing to follow the general European pattern and use a form of proportional representation to elect its section of the European Parliament.

This pleased the small Liberal Party, whose support enables the minority Labour government to survive in parliament. The Liberals have bitterly opposed Britain's traditional method of elections in which only one candidate — the one with most votes — is elected in each constituency.

Liberal foreign affairs spokesman

Jeremy Thorpe described the bill as "a great advance."

Mr. William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, stressed that his party had always favoured direct elections.

But the strong leftwing section of the ruling Labour Party, which has always been suspicious of Britain's membership of the Common Market, issued a statement saying the proposals would "have more to do with a Euro-state than with democracy."

There are opponents to proportional representation, in both Labour and Conservative parties, and the bill provides that if the British parliament rejects this, then the old election system will operate.

Popular politician tipped to become leader of Ireland's Fine Gael Party

DUBLIN, June 24 (R). — Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Garret Fitzgerald today was favoured in speculation as likely to become leader of the Fine Gael Party after the surprise resignation of Mr. Liam Cosgrave, Prime Minister since June 1973.

The quiet, gruff-spoken Mr. Cosgrave quit last night following the crushing defeat of his coalition government in general elections last week won by Mr. Jack Lynch's opposition Fianna Fail Party.

The result, ranked as one of the biggest upsets in Irish political history, was a blow to the understanding built up by the British and Irish governments on a firm stand against the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Mr. Cosgrave's Fine Gael Party had ruled in a coalition with the Labour Party of Mr. Brendan Corish.

The outgoing prime minister will hand over to Mr. Lynch on July 5. Mr. Cosgrave said his parliamentary party would meet on July 1 to elect a new leader.

Dr. Fitzgerald, one of the

Irish Republic's best known and most popular politicians, was regarded as front-runner to succeed Mr. Cosgrave. Other possible contenders mentioned in speculation included Finance Minister Mr. Richie Ryan, one of Mr. Cosgrave's closest confidants, and Mr. Peter Barry, head of the Education Department.

Justice Minister Mr. Patrick Cooney, who might have been in the running, lost his parliamentary seat in the election.

Mr. Cosgrave's resignation, a shock to many of his supporters, came a week after the coalition government was swept out of office.

Fine Gael's strength was cut

to just 43 of the 148 seats in the Dail (parliament) compared with 84 for Fianna Fail. Labour won 17 seats, Independents four.

Mr. Cosgrave, 57, is the son of Mr. William Cosgrave, who headed the Irish government for the first nine years after the state came into being in 1923.

In a terse personal statement, the outgoing premier said he would remain active in politics as a member of parliament.

Free-election opinion polls had pointed to a victory for the coalition, accentuating the shock of the Fianna Fail triumph at the polls.

Catholic news agency detects a communist religious reappraisal

VIENNA, June 24 (AFP). — The Eastern European communist countries are reconsidering their opposition to religion, the Austrian Roman Catholic news agency Kathpress theorised today.

Moscow would like to end criticism by Western European Communists about religion being a problem in Eastern Europe or an alternative to communism for Christians in those countries, Kathpress explained.

It said the Hungarian Institute of Ecclesiastical Sociology in Vienna viewed the recent visit to the Vatican by Hungarian Communist Party leader Janos Kadar as an event indicating changed thinking in other communist countries as well as Hungary.

Aside from Hungary's normalisation of relations with the Vatican, the new Soviet Constitution was "relatively liberal" concerning religion, Kathpress commented. Citizens will be authorised to appeal against religious persecution.

The Kremlin was "testing" a more liberal policy towards religion in Hungary, the agency speculated.

News focus

Can Ecevit put Turkey's financial house in order?

ANKARA, June 24 (R). — Turkish industry may face a crisis unless the new government gets a vote of confidence and applies coherent economic policy in the next few weeks, according to senior financial and business sources here.

Turkey has already had to suspend payment for all imports except essential strategic items, such as oil, steel, fertiliser and defence materials.

Disruptive shortages of imports have been reported in some major sectors, including construction.

The reason is a severe foreign exchange shortage, caused by a huge balance-of-payments deficit. This deficit was worsened by a long period of indiscipline in investment and import policy, according to independent analysts.

Foreign exporters have generally shown understanding until now, Turkish sources say, waiting for a government to emerge from the June 5 elections and impose a clear policy which might enable the country to set its house in order.

But unless there are clear signs in the next few weeks that Turkey is coming to grips with its problems and trying to make ends meet, their patience seems likely to end, according to experts here.

The result could be an interruption in traditional trade relations, forcing Turkey to look elsewhere for partners.

New Premier Bulent Ecevit faces a close parliamentary battle and uncertain prospects when he seeks a vote of confidence.

His Republican People's Party, the biggest in Parliament, could count on 215 sure votes — 11 short of an absolute majority in the 450-seat National Assembly.

Despite Mr. Ecevit's social democratic principles, some leading industrialists are hoping he will succeed. He is regarded as more likely than his right-wing opponents to apply a coherent policy and to take measures — some of which are bound to be politically unpopular — to enable Turkey to pay its way.

Some leaders in the commercial sector, on the other

hand, are reported to favour conservative ex-Premier Süleyman Demirel, because they would expect better short-term price and profit margins under him.

Mr. Demirel, Prime Minister for the past two years, is widely seen here as having been unable for political reasons to rationalise policy on industrial investment and trade.

He often would give in to his Deputy Premier and coalition partner, Mr. Necmettin Erbakan, an advocate of unrestrained development spending.

Mr. Erbakan is leader of the National Salvation Party (NSP), dedicated to Islamic-oriented nationalism.

Some sources close to the business community have also expressed anxiety over the possibility that Mr. Ecevit, who governed in coalition with Mr. Erbakan briefly in 1974, might turn to him again if he is unable to win a confidence vote for his minority government.

Official sources say that despite the import problems, Turkish industry can run on existing stocks for the next few months, and that some news-

papers and business sources are exaggerating the problems.

Whether or not this is the case, there are pressing problems.

Asked what the economic position would be if Mr. Ecevit failed to win a vote of confidence from Parliament, one of Turkey's financial experts replied: "I don't even want to think about that alternative."

Speculation in recent months has focussed on the possibility of some form of devaluation for the Turkish lira and measures to bring the price of petrol and other fuels into line with international prices. Domestic prices of these and other politically sensitive items have been kept artificially low under the Demirel government.

Financial experts here hope they will be able to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a substantial drawing in the next few months.

This would be a major help in tiding the country over — but the IMF is expected to demand evidence that the government is taking measures to bring the economy into better balance.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

- * UNITED NATIONS, June 24 (R). — The International League for Human Rights today criticised the U.S. State Department for a lack of candour in its reports to Congress about alleged rights violations in Iran. It also called for an investigation of activities of the Iranian secret police agency Savak within the U.S. and of its alleged threats against Iranian residents of the U.S. In a letter to Shah Mohamed Reza Pahlavi, the league said there was growing evidence of gross violations of civil and political rights in Iran.
- * GENEVA, June 24 (R). — About 100 people are believed to have been killed and several thousand made homeless in the savage week-long storm that first struck the Sultanate of Oman on June 12, the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) said yesterday. An UNDRO statement said about 50 people were reported to have been killed in one village alone in Dhofar Province.
- * BRASILIA, June 24 (AFP). — Brazil legalised divorce yesterday, despite a last-minute threat by the Catholic Church to exclude divorced persons from the church sacraments. On the second and final reading the Federal Congress approved by a vote of 226 to 159 a constitutional amendment enabling Brazilians to obtain a divorce at the end of three years of legal separation or five years of de facto separation.
- * PARIS, June 24 (R). — The family of kidnapped French Fiat chief Luciano Revelli-Beaumont today denied reports that a \$2 million ransom had been paid into Swiss bank accounts to secure his release. "There is no truth in these reports," said Signora Maria Revelli-Beaumont, whose husband was bundled into a car by four gunmen over two months ago. The self-styled Committee for Revolutionary Socialist Unity has threatened to kill Signor Revelli-Beaumont, head of Fiat's French operation, unless a \$30 million ransom is paid.
- * BUENOS AIRES, June 24 (R). — Former Argentinean President María Estela Peron, detained by the armed forces since her overthrow 15 months ago, is suffering severe depression, navy sources said yesterday.
- * TUNIS, June 24 (R). — The General Assembly of the Arab Tourism Union has called for promotion of tourism in the Arab world by "Disney World" style festivals. This was announced at a press conference here last night by Mr. Salah Chihab, Chairman of the Arab Tourism Union and Kuwait's Deputy Minister for Tourism and Culture, after a two-day meeting of the union. Mr. Chihab also announced that the Palestine Liberation Organisation had been admitted to membership of the union.